

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, IN, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY ON AID TO INDIA

1. FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY BY UNDER SECRETARY SISCO BEFORE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE JUNE 12. TEXT IS UNCORRECTED COPY AND FOR YOUR BACKGROUND ONLY. WILL POUCH CORRECTED COPY WHEN AVAILABLE.

A. MR. ZABLOCKI. IN THE PROCESS OF THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS BILL SOME CONCERN WAS REGISTERED THAT THE \$80 MILLION TO INDIA SHOULD BE SCRUTINIZED BECAUSE OF THE NUCLEAR BOMB THAT INDIA HAS PRODUCED. IS THERE ANY SIMILARITY TO THE NUCLEAR EFFORTS ON THE PART OF ISRAEL?

MR. SISCO. NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF, MR. CHAIRMAN.

LET ME SAY THIS, THAT BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAVE LONG  
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BEEN INTERESTED IN POWER REACTORS TO BE USED FOR GENERAT-

ING ELECTRICITY IN THEIR COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION TO ELECTRICITY AS FAR AS THE ISRAELIS ARE CONCERNED THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN POWER REACTORS FOR PROJECTS ON DESALINIZATION.

LET ME SAY THAT WE HAVE HAD, AND I THINK YOU ARE AWARE OF THIS, A LONG AND DETAILED STUDY THAT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. WE HAVE GOTTEN TO THE

POINT WHERE WE THINK BASICALLY WE OUGHT TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THIS KIND OF A DESIRE ON THE PART OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL; HOWEVER NO FINAL DECISION HAS IN FACT BEEN MADE.

INSOFAR AS THE INDIAN MATTER, LET ME JUST SAY ONE WORD. YOU KNOW WHAT OUR POSITION HAS BEEN, MR. ZABLOCKI. WE ARE A SIGNED OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. WE HAVE BEEN AGAINST THESE PEACEFUL EXPLOSIONS, AND THAT IS BASICALLY OUR POSITION. WITHOUT MAKING A LONG SPEECH ABOUT INDIA, WE HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY KIND OF AN ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM WITH INDIA SINCE 1971, SINCE THE WAR. WE ARE TALKING IN TERMS OF HOPEFULLY A NEW ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AN IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES. I THINK THIS IS VERY MODEST BY COMPARISON TO WHAT WE DID 10 AND 15 YEARS AGO, AND I WOULD HOPE THAT REGARDLESS OF THE DEVELOPMENTS OF RECENT WEEKS THAT THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE WOULD FOCUS ON THE CONTINUING HUMANITARIAN NEED. THERE ARE PEOPLE THERE THAT ARE STARVING THAT NEED FOOD AND NEED HELP.

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THERE MIGHT BE A QUESTIONING ATTITUDE WITH RESPECT TO THE DECISION TAKEN, BUT REGRETTABLY I DON'T THINK THIS OBVIATES THE NEED OF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES, SO I HOPE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE WILL LOOK AT IT FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT THIS IS A VERY MODEST SUM INDEED.

B. MR. WILSON. RIGHT, JOE.  
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BEFORE I ASK THE QUESTION, I JUST WANT TO MAKE ONE OBSERVATION, MR. SECRETARY, AND THAT IS THAT MANY OF US ARE DEEPLY TROUBLED BY THE \$75 MILLION THAT IS IN THE REQUEST CONCERNING INDIA.

I THINK THAT THE BILL WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO PASS IF THAT WERE NOT IN THERE. I THINK WE ARE GOING TO HAVE

DIFFICULTY PASSING IT AND I THINK THAT INDIA HAS RECENTLY  
SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE VERY CHAUVINISTIC, MILITARY-MINDED,  
IN SPITE OF THEIR PRIOR STATEMENTS.

THEY ARE NOT ENTERING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES; EGYPT IS  
ONE EXAMPLE. THEY WERE IN VERY SERIOUS VIOLATION OF ALL  
THE GENEVA-PAKISTAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

THEY SPENT \$2 MILLION TO SET OFF AN ATOMIC DEVICE.

THEY HAVE NOT SAID ANYTHING NICE ABOUT THE UNITED STATES  
EXCEPT WHEN WE WROTE OFF \$2 BILLION IN BAD DEBTS. SO,  
I THINK WE TAKE IT OUT. SISCO

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